

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a toothbrush comprising a handle part and a brush head including a plurality of tufts of bristles, wherein ~~plastified~~ material plastified by plastifying units is injected into a plurality of separate mold cavities configured in a joint tool for shaping identical, separated molded bodies, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the said individual mold cavities of identical shape are filled with different components of a plastified material in one injection molding cycle, and ~~that~~ the different components of the plastified material are supplied from individual plastifying units via separated channels to ~~the~~ the said separate mold cavities.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plastified material is kept in a liquid state in the channels.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one component is injected into a plurality of said identical mold cavities.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a plurality of basic bodies are shaped in a joint tool in a first molding step, and wherein ~~that~~ the basic bodies are over-molded in a second molding step.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the different components of the plastified material are supplied in the second molding step.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein in the first molding step different components of plastified material are supplied via separate channels to the mold cavities for shaping the basic bodies.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the first and second molding steps are carried out in the same tool.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein at least some of the tufts of bristles are connected in the second molding step to the basic body by over-molding the tufts of bristles and/or a bristle tuft holding portion formed, in particular, in the first molding step on the tuft of bristles.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for producing a toothbrush comprising a handle part and a brush head including a plurality of tufts of bristles, ~~in particular claim 1,~~ comprising: an injection molding tool having formed therein a plurality of identical mold cavities,

~~characterized in that~~wherein a plurality of plastifying units ~~1a, 1b, 1e~~ are provided, each communicating with different mold cavities of the injection molding tool.

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a plurality of first mold cavities (4a) are provided for shaping basic bodies of an identical geometry and a number of second mold cavities (~~4b, 4e~~) corresponding to the number of first mold cavities are provided that are made larger than the first mold cavities (~~4a~~).

11. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein different plastifying units (~~1b, 1e~~) are assigned to individual ones of the second mold cavities (~~4b, 4e~~).

12. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein there is provided at least one shut-off device (~~5~~) by which individual or several mold cavities (~~4a, 4b~~) can be brought into flow communication with a plastifying unit (~~1a, 1b~~).

13. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~wherein different mold cavities can selectively be brought by the shut-off device (~~5~~) into flow communication with different plastifying units (~~1b, 1e~~) or with a joint plastifying unit (~~1a, 1b~~).

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~wherein a shut-off device (5) is assigned to mold cavities of an identical design.

15. (New) A method for producing a toothbrush having a handle part and a brush
head including a plurality of tufts of bristles, the method comprising:

injecting material plastified by ~~a~~plastifying units into a plurality of separate mold
cavities configured in a joint tool for shaping identical, separated molded bodies,

filling said individual mold cavities of identical shape with different components of a
plastified material in one injection molding cycle, and

wherein the injecting step comprises supplying the different components of the plastified
material from individual plastifying units via separated channels to said separate mold cavities.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the plastified material is kept
in a liquid state in the channels.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein one component is injected
into a plurality of said identical mold cavities..

18. (New) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

shaping a plurality of basic bodies in the joint tool in a first molding step, and

over-molding the basic bodies in a second molding step.
19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the different components of the plastified material are supplied in the second molding step.
20. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein, in the first molding step, different components of plastified material are supplied via separate channels to the mold cavities for shaping the basic bodies.
21. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the first and second molding steps are carried out in the same tool.
22. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least some of the tufts of bristles are connected in the second molding step to the basic body by over-molding the tufts of bristles and/or a bristle tuft holding portion formed in the first molding step on the tuft of bristles.

23. (New) A device for producing a toothbrush having a handle part and a brush head including a plurality of tufts of bristles, the device comprising:

an injection molding tool having formed therein a plurality of identical mold cavities, and
a plurality of plastifying units, each communicating with different mold cavities of the injection molding tool.

24. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein a plurality of first mold cavities are provided for shaping basic bodies of an identical geometry and a number of second mold cavities corresponding to the number of first mold cavities are provided that are made larger than the first mold cavities.

25. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein different plastifying units are assigned to individual ones of the second mold cavities.

26. (New) The device according to claim 23, further comprising at least one shut-off device by which individual or several mold cavities can be brought into flow communication with a plastifying unit.

Serial No. 09/701,673 - Schiffer
Art Unit: 1732 – Attorney Docket 127.003
Response to July 17, 2003 Office Action
Page 9 of 23

27. (New) The device according to claim 26, wherein different mold cavities can selectively be brought by the shut-off device into flow communication with different plastifying units or with a joint plastifying unit.

28. (New) The device according to claim 26, wherein a shut-off device is assigned to mold cavities of an identical design.

Serial No. 09/701,673 - Schiffer
Art Unit: 1732 – Attorney Docket 127.003
Response to July 17, 2003 Office Action
Page 10 of 23

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached annotated sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 3 and 4, in which the German-language labels have been replaced with English-language labels. Also attached is one replacement sheet incorporating these changes.